# Alberta Economy

## Indicators at a Glance

### Real GDP by Industry

In 2013, Alberta's real GDP by industry grew by 3.9%, the third strongest growth rate among the provinces and the fourth consecutive year of robust growth. Real GDP by industry growth was 3.7% in 2012. Nationally, real GDP rose 2.0% in 2013, a slight increase over 2012.

### Population

As of April 1, 2014 Alberta's population was estimated at 4,111,509, a 3.2% increase from one year prior. Nationally, population grew 1.1% from a year ago, reaching 35,427,524.

### Migration

Alberta welcomed 11,735 net new international migrants and 9,581 net new residents from other provinces in the first quarter of 2014.

### Employment[1]

Alberta employment jumped again in June, adding 9,400 net new jobs, after gaining 16,400 in May. Over the last 12 months, the province has added more than 81,000 jobs.

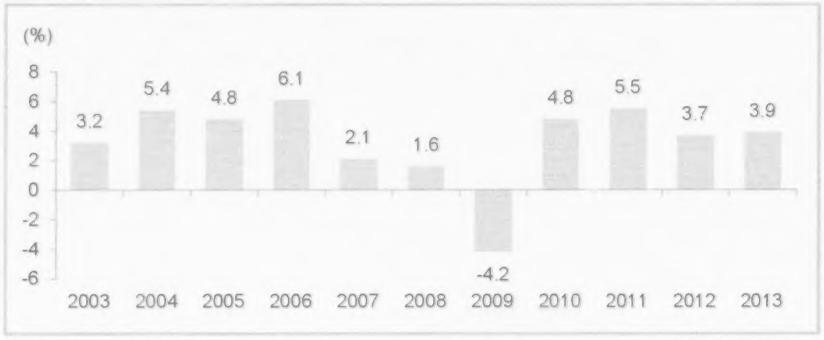
### Unemployment[1]

Despite the employment surge, Alberta's unemployment rate moved up 0.3 percentage points to 4.9% in June, as 17,300 people joined the labour force.

### Rigs Drilling

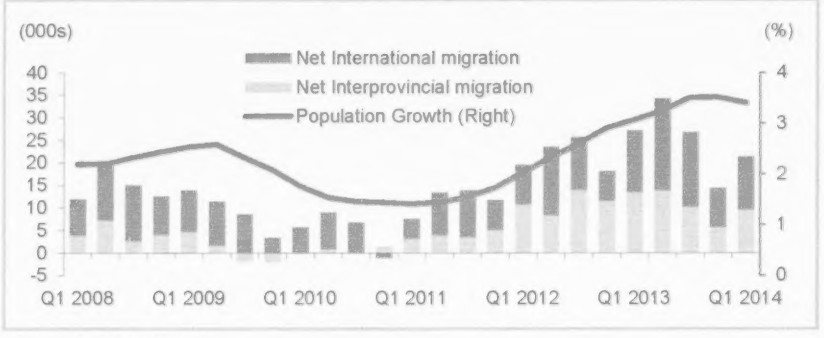
The average number of active rigs in Alberta for June was 150, a 29.7% increase from June 2013. Rig activity is up 5.0% year-to-date.

Real GDP by Industry (Basic Prices)
Annual, year-over-year % change



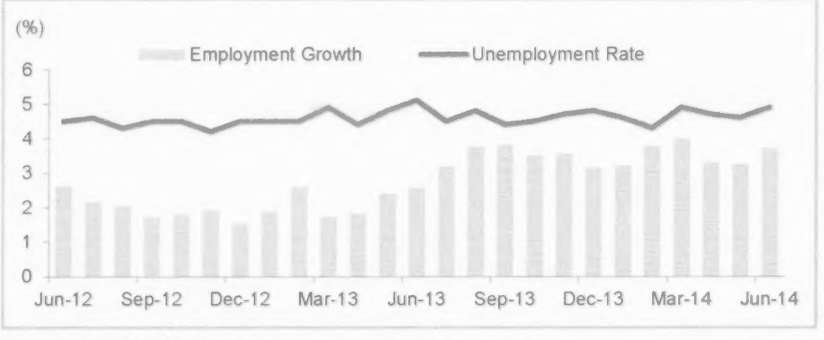

Source: Statistics Canada

Demographics
Quarterly, population is year-over-year % change




Source: Statistics Canada

Labour Market
Monthly, employment is year-over-year % change




Source: Statistics Canada

## Inflation

The Consumer Price Index rose 2.5% y/y in May, down from a 2.7% increase in April. Inflation excluding food and energy was also 2.5% in May.

## Average Weekly Earnings[1]

Average Weekly Earnings (AWE) were $1,141.70 in April, up 4.3% y/y. Year to date, AWE has grown by a healthy 4.0%. Nationally, earnings rose 3.3% y/y to $932.13.

## Retail Sales[1]

Retail sales totalled $6.5 billion in April, up 7.0% y/y. Growth was broad-based among retailers, with sales from gasoline stations up 25.2%.

## Housing Starts

Housing starts in June was 53,699 Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rate (SAAR), a 41.1% spike over the same month last year. Alberta accounted for the majority of national growth overall.

## New Housing Price Index

The New Housing Price Index in Alberta increased 3.6% y/y in May. Calgary led all major Canadian cities with an increase of 7.6% y/y; on the other hand, prices in Edmonton were flat.

## Building Permits[1]

The total value of building permits increased 4.4% y/y in May and 9.8% from the previous month. Growth in the value of commercial permits in Edmonton and Calgary was responsible for most of the increase.

[1] Seasonally adjusted

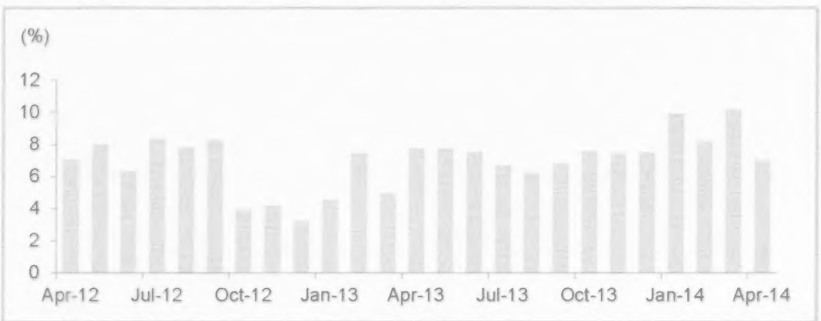
## Contact

*Mark Walker* 780.415.0825

Inflation and Earnings
Monthly, CPI and AWE are year-over-year % change

Source: Statistics Canada

Retail Sales
Monthly, year-over-year % change




Source: Statistics Canada

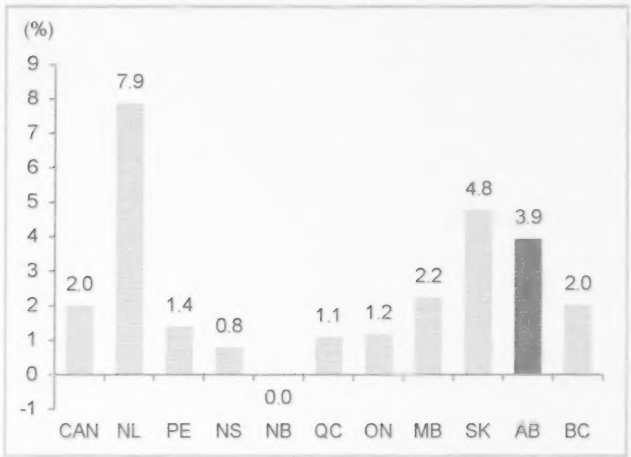
Housing Market
Monthly

Source: Statistics Canada

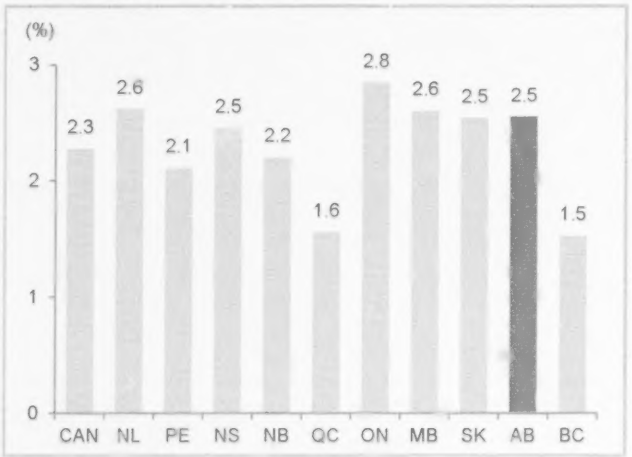
| | Canadian Dollar (USc/$CAN) | WTI Oil ($US/bbl) | NYMEX Natural Gas ($US/MMBtu) | Alberta Reference Price ($C/GJ) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Latest (July 10, 2014) | 93.83 | 102.93 | 4.12 | 4.21 (Apr) |
| Fiscal year-to-date | 91.96 | 103.06 | 4.55 | 4.21 |

Please see the *Weeekly Economic Review* for current analysis on the Alberta economy.

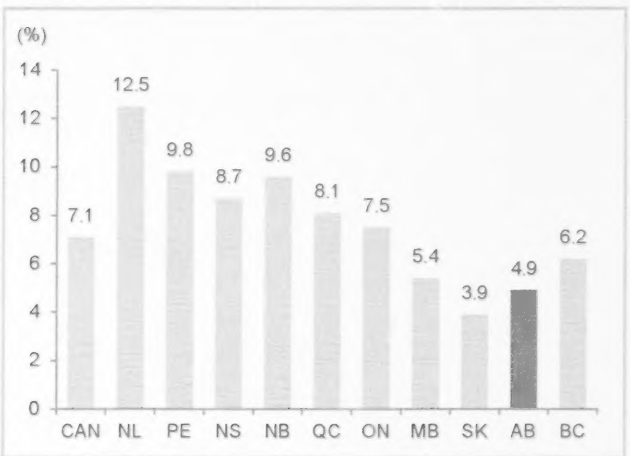
Real GDP by Industry (Basic Prices)
(2013, year-over-year growth)



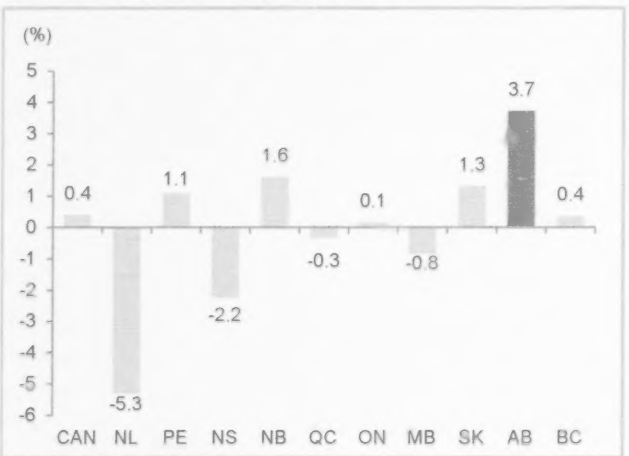

CPI Inflation
(May 2014, year-over-year growth)



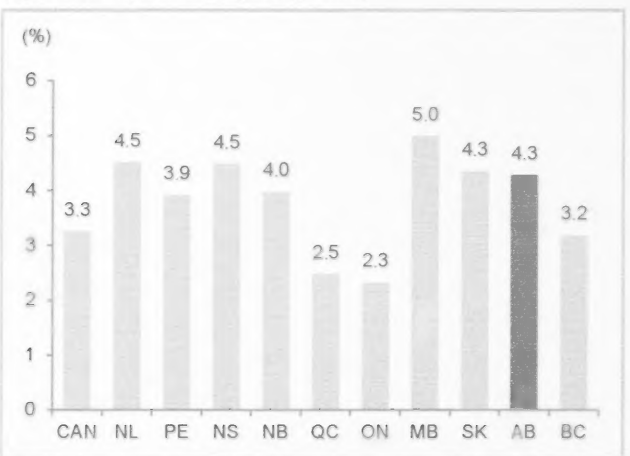

Unemployment Rate
(June 2014)



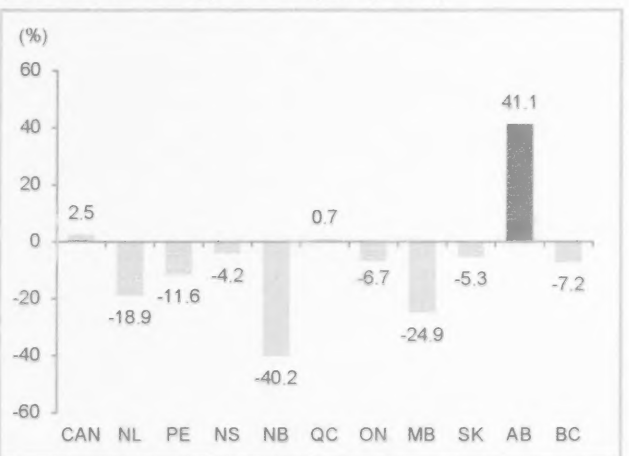

Employment
(June 2014, year-over-year growth)




Average Weekly Earnings
(April 2014, year-over-year growth)




Housing Starts
(June 2014, SAAR, year-over-year growth)



# Alberta Economic Indicators

| Population[1] | 2012 | 2013 | 2014YTD | Jan-14 | Feb-14 | Mar-14 | Apr-14 | May-14 | Jun-14 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Population (thousands) | 3,889 | 4,025 | 4,112 | 4,083 | | | 4,112 | | |
| y/y % change | 2.6 | 3.5 | 3.2 | 3.4 | | | 3.2 | | |
| Net Interprovincial Migration | 27,652 | 52,677 | 15,933 | 5,663 | | | 9,581 | | |
| Net International Migration | 40,842 | 52,551 | 25,185 | 8,749 | | | 11,735 | | |
| **Labour Market** | | | | | | | | | |
| Employment (thousands, SA) | 2,150 | 2,211 | 2,264 | 2,243 | 2,262 | 2,261 | 2,258 | 2,275 | 2,284 |
| m/m change (thousands) | | | | 6.6 | 18.8 | 0.9 | 2.9 | 16.4 | 9.4 |
| y/y % change | 2.7 | 2.9 | 3.5 | 3.2 | 3.8 | 4.0 | 3.9 | 3.2 | 3.7 |
| Unemployment Rate (%, SA) | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 4.3 | 4.9 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 4.9 |
| Participation Rate (%, SA) | 73.4 | 73.1 | 73.0 | 72.8 | 73.1 | 73.3 | 72.8 | 73.0 | 73.0 |
| Average Weekly Earnings ($, SA) | 1,070.31 | 1,107.75 | 1,134.15 | 1,127.82 | 1,127.06 | 1,140.00 | 1,141.70 | | |
| y/y % change | 3.5 | 3.5 | 4.0 | 4.5 | 3.0 | 4.2 | 4.3 | | |
| **Household Sector** | | | | | | | | | |
| Retail Sales ($ million, SA) | 68,408 | 73,109 | 25,838 | 6,407 | 6,461 | 6,514 | 6,456 | | |
| y/y % change | 7.0 | 6.9 | 8.8 | 9.9 | 8.2 | 10.2 | 7.0 | | |
| New Vehicle Sales (units, thousands) | 248 | 263 | 81 | 16.5 | 16.7 | 23.2 | 24.5 | | |
| y/y % change | 10.5 | 6.2 | -0.4 | -1.8 | 5.5 | 5.1 | -0.6 | | |
| Consumer Price Index (y/y % change) | 1.1 | 1.4 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 2.4 | 3.9 | 2.7 | 2.5 | |
| Excluding Food & Energy | 1.3 | 1.4 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.6 | 2.5 | |
| Housing Starts (SAAR, 000's) | 33.4 | 36.0 | 40.3 | 39.4 | 36.4 | 39.7 | 39.9 | 33.6 | 59.7 |
| y/y % change | 29.9 | 7.8 | 10.8 | 29.6 | 3.7 | 17.3 | 0.9 | -30.3 | 41.1 |
| New Housing Price Index (y/y % change) | 1.3 | 2.8 | 3.4 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.6 | |
| Resale Home Sales | 60,369 | 66,080 | 28,955 | 5,370 | 5,489 | 6,879 | 5,982 | 6,235 | |
| y/y % change | 12.3 | 9.5 | 10.7 | 5.3 | 6.0 | 11.6 | 12.8 | 15.2 | |
| Sales to New Listing Ratio | 0.59 | 0.64 | 0.65 | 0.66 | 0.66 | 0.66 | 0.65 | 0.65 | |
| MLS Average Resale Prices ($ thousands) | 362 | 380 | 397 | 400 | 401 | 397 | 391 | 394 | |
| y/y % change | 2.6 | 5.0 | 5.7 | 7.9 | 6.5 | 5.0 | 4.2 | 5.0 | |
| Consumer Bankruptcies (level) | 5,759 | 4,689 | 1,370 | 336 | 302 | 365 | 367 | | |
| y/y % change | -18.1 | -18.6 | -21.8 | -24.7 | -26.7 | -14.9 | -20.9 | | |
| **Business Sector** | | | | | | | | | |
| Goods Exports (customs based,$ million) | 95,873 | 103,719 | 51,669 | 10,721 | 9,375 | 10,646 | 10,410 | 10,517 | |
| y/y % change | 2.8 | 8.2 | 21.2 | 21.4 | 15.0 | 22.5 | 25.7 | 21.0 | |
| Energy Products ($ million) | 68,677 | 76,346 | 39,002 | 8,392 | 7,144 | 8,064 | 7,650 | 7,743 | |
| y/y% change | 3.6 | 11.2 | 26.6 | 27.5 | 19.6 | 31.4 | 30.3 | 24.4 | |
| Agricultural Products ($ million) | 6,795 | 6,226 | 3,019 | 524 | 485 | 615 | 674 | 721 | |
| y/y % change | 20.6 | -8.4 | 3.2 | 7.5 | 13.5 | -3.0 | 17.7 | 21.7 | |
| Rigs Drilling | 250 | 235 | 247 | 392 | 403 | 282 | 143 | 115 | 150 |
| y/y% change | -12.6 | -5.9 | 5.0 | 6.7 | 4.4 | 7.8 | 23.9 | 29.7 | 29.7 |
| Manufacturing Shipments ($ million) | 71,675 | 73,793 | 26,137 | 6,435 | 6,524 | 6,587 | 6,588 | | |
| y/y% change | 2.6 | 3.0 | 9.1 | 7.3 | 7.6 | 11.1 | 10.7 | | |
| Wholesale Trade ($ million) | 76,841 | 78,605 | 27,402 | 6,750 | 6,834 | 6,882 | 6,935 | | |
| y/y% change | 10.8 | 2.3 | 6.1 | 4.8 | 3.8 | 8.2 | 7.5 | | |
| Building Permits ($ million, SA) | 14,663 | 17,262 | 6,904 | 1,611 | 1,191 | 1,288 | 1,342 | 1,474 | |
| y/y% change | 14.8 | 17.7 | 2.9 | 40.9 | 12.9 | -24.7 | -9.3 | 4.4 | |
| Residential Permits ($ million, SA) | 8,287 | 9,859 | 4,220 | 1,061 | 761 | 750 | 801 | 846 | |
| y/y % change | 18.2 | 19.0 | -9.6 | 50.8 | 6.8 | -10.2 | -7.4 | -0.6 | |
| Non-Residential Permits ($ million, SA) | 6,376 | 7,403 | 2,684 | 549 | 429 | 538 | 540 | 628 | |
| y/y % change | 10.7 | 16.1 | -17.7 | 24.9 | -34.3 | -38.6 | -26.3 | -11.9 | |
| Non-Res. Building Const. Price Index[2] (y/y % change) | 3.8 | 1.2 | 1.9 | | | 1.9 | | | |
| Business Bankruptcies | 230 | 137 | 33 | 7 | 11 | 6 | 9 | | |
| y/y % change | -12.9 | -40.4 | -35.3 | 30.0 | -21.4 | 50.0 | 40.0 | | |

1 Quarterly; annual numbers are presented on a census year basis (July 1– June 30)

2 Quarterly, average of Calgary and Edmonton

YTD YTD (year-to-date). "SA" denotes seasonally adjusted. "SAAR" denotes seasonally adjusted at annual rate

**Sources:** All data are from Statistics Canada except Housing Starts (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation), MLS Average Resale Prices (Canada Real Estate Association), Rigs Drilling (Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors) and Bankruptcies (office of the superintendent of Bankruptcy

**All historical data are subject to revision**